

In Their Own Words: President Obama and Governor McDonnell on K-12 and Higher Education

<p>State of the Commonwealth Address Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell January 11, 2012 Speech</p>	<p>State of the Union Address President Barack Obama January 25, 2012 Speech</p>
<p>Recognition of Great Teachers: Our teachers are well educated and motivated professionals who deserve to be treated as such. Just like workers in most other jobs get reviewed every year, and are therefore able to be more accurately promoted and rewarded for their success, so too should our teachers.</p>	<p>Recognition of Great Teachers: Every person in this chamber can point to a teacher who changed the trajectory of their lives. Most teachers work tirelessly, with modest pay, sometimes digging into their own pocket for school supplies -- just to make a difference.</p>
<p>Better Pay, Better Teachers: I am asking that we remove the continuing contract status from teachers and principals and provide an annual contract in its place. This will allow us to implement an improved evaluation system that really works and give principals a new tool to utilize in managing their schools. Along with the merit pay pilot program we approved last year, we will provide more incentives and accountability to attract and retain the best and brightest teachers.</p> <p>....</p> <p>We all know strong teachers who deserve to be better recognized for the invaluable roles they play in the development and learning of our students.</p>	<p>Better Pay, Better Teachers: Teachers matter. So instead of bashing them, or defending the status quo, let's offer schools a deal. Give them the resources to keep good teachers on the job, <u>and reward the best ones.</u> And in return, grant schools flexibility: to teach with creativity and passion; to stop teaching to the test; and to replace teachers who just aren't helping kids learn. That's a bargain worth making."</p>
<p>College Tuition: When our students are ready for college, our colleges must be ready for them. The American dream becomes more attainable when a college degree is more accessible and affordable. Our sweeping Top Jobs higher education legislation that passed unanimously last year set a visionary blueprint for reform and reinvestment in higher education. Now, we</p>	<p>College Tuition: When kids do graduate, the most daunting challenge can be the cost of college.</p> <p>We can't just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we'll run out of money. States also need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets. And colleges and universities have to do their</p>

have to put our money where our policy is. I am asking you to invest over \$200 million in new funding for our colleges and universities. Additionally, I am proposing a dynamic new funding model for higher education that ties new general funds to achieving our statutory goals. Institutions will be rewarded for increasing the number of degrees, especially in STEM-H fields; improving graduation rates, and expanding practical research. It will also require colleges to be more accountable and efficient, by reprioritizing 5 percent of their current general fund dollars by 2014 to meet the key policy goals we enacted last year, including year round use of facilities and greater use of technology to leverage more programs and courses.

Taken together, these actions cement the direct nexus between higher education and job creation, and begin to reverse the unacceptable trend over the last ten years during which the average college tuition for our constituents has doubled. Parents and students can't afford it. Those days are over!

part by working to keep costs down.

Recently, I spoke with a group of college presidents who've done just that. Some schools redesign courses to help students finish more quickly. Some use better technology. The point is, it's possible.....Higher education can't be a luxury it is an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford.

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